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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,748	02/12/2001	Arun K. Subramaniam	S838.12-0001	8939

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EXAMINER
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ELISCA, PIERRE E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/781,748

Applicant(s)

SUBRAMANIAM, ARUN K.

Examiner

Pierre E. Elisca

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to Applicant's amendment, filed on 4/27/2004.
2. Claims 1-20 are pending.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103 (a)***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al. (U.S. pat. No. 5,884,272) in view of Calamera et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,463,533), and further in view of Axaopoulos et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,286,002).**

As per claims 1, 2, 5-8, and 10-20 Walker substantially discloses a system/method for establishing anonymous communications includes a plurality of party terminals, a plurality of requester terminals, and a central controller (or privacy agent) (which is readable as Applicant's claimed invention wherein it is stated that a system for anonymous transactions), the system comprising:

a plurality of web servers for hosting transactions between verified users (see., abstract, fig.);

Art Unit: 3621

a web portal, the web portal having a connection with the internet (see., fig 1, item 400, col 7, lines 29-48) ;

a plurality of data stores for storing the transactions (see., fig 2A). Walker further discloses a credit card transaction (see., col 19, lines 51-61). It is obvious to realize that email is an object in the Internet.

It is to be noted that Walker fails to explicitly disclose that his anonymous transaction is for maintaining transactional anonymity between user and WEB SERVERS or WEB SITES. However, Calamera discloses a system for allowing a computer network site or web site to recognize an anonymous user without revealing the identity of the user (see., abstract, col 11, lines 4-21, col 12, lines 9-24). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the anonymous communications of Walker by including the limitation detailed above because such modification would provide the anonymous communications of walker with the enhanced capability of determining the user identity from the web site.

Walker and Calamera fail to disclose Applicant's newly added limitation wherein said temporarily transmission of a message containing information regarding an actual identity of the verified user sending the message. Axaopoulos discloses a user that can purchase products at an other web site using a navigation agent's identity, a unique identity corresponding to that user in the market place program, or a temporary identity for the user without the supplier knowing the identity of the user (see., abstract, col 17, lines 4-15). Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Walker and Calamera by

Art Unit: 3621

including the limitation indicated above as taught by Axaopoulos because this would allow consumers to make purchases without compromising their identity and/or security.

As per claim 3, Calamera discloses the claimed limitations wherein the privacy agent or controller comprises a software component stored on a computer, the software agent being in network communication with each web server, the software agent programmatically monitoring text messages between the web postal and the web servers (see., abstract, col 11, lines 4-21, specifically wherein it is stated that alias maintains the user's identity or anonymity).

As per claims 4 and 9 Calamera discloses the claimed limitations wherein programmatically interfering with text messages includes temporarily preventing a message from reaching the web servers until a sender of the message authorizes disclosure of the private data (see., col 11, lines 4-21, specifically wherein it is stated that a website receives an alias which it recognizes as associated with a disruptive user, the website can deny or block (or authorize or unauthorized) access to the user).

### **RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS**

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 04/27/2004 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new ground (s) of rejection. Necessitated by amendment, filed on 04/27/2004.

### REMARKS

6. In response to Applicant's arguments, Applicant argues that neither Walker nor Calamera discloses: Applicant's newly added limitation wherein said temporarily transmission of a message containing information regarding an actual identity of the verified user sending the message. However, the newly found prior art Axaopoulos discloses a user that can purchase products at an other web site using a navigation agent's identity, a unique identity corresponding to that user in the market place program, or a temporary identity for the user without the supplier knowing the identity of the user (see., abstract, col 17, lines 4-15). Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Walker and Calamera by including the limitation indicated above as taught by Axaopoulos because this would allow consumers to make purchases without compromising their identity and/or security.

### *Conclusion*

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

Art Unit: 3621

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre E. Elisca whose telephone number is 703 305-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703 305-9769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Pierre Eddy Elisca

Primary patent Examiner

June 08, 2004